

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 15, 28, 41, 43, 47, 49, 53-55, 70 and 80 are currently amended, claims 42, 44-46, 48, 71 and 79 have been canceled, and claim 94 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-41, 43, 47, 49-58, 70, 72-78 and 80-94 are pending, and claims 42, 44-46, 48, 59-69, 71 and 79 are canceled.

Claims 1-40 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

While it is believed that the disclosure of the structure and operation of the device fully supports the previous amendment to claims 1, 15 and 28, the text objected to has been deleted, and claims 1, 15 and 28 have been amended to clarify that the positioning unit rotates to and is maintained in a plurality of positions corresponding to gear positions of the bicycle transmission, wherein the first lever is operatively coupled to the positioning unit so that the first lever is maintained in a plurality of positions corresponding to gear positions of the bicycle transmission in addition to beginning and end positions of a range of motion of the first lever. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0023] that describes how pawl tooth (146) of positioning pawl (41) (an example of a positioning member) engages selective ones of the plurality of positioning teeth (134) on positioning ratchet (34) (an example of a positioning unit) to maintain takeup element (30), and hence winding lever (28) (an example of a first lever), in a plurality of positions corresponding to gear positions of the bicycle transmission.

Claims 1-40 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claims 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (US 5,104,358). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 41 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 46 and intervening claims 42, 44 and 45. Claim 46 was not rejected over the prior art, so claims 41, 43, 47, 49-54 and 90-92 are believed to be allowable as amended.

Claims 41-45, 47, 49-58, 70, 72-78, 90, 91 and 93 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano (US 5,203,213). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, independent claim 41 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 46, so it is believed that claims 41, 43, 47, 49-54 and 90-92 are now allowable.

As for independent claim 55, that claim recites a first lever that moves in a first lever direction to move the positioning unit in a first gear position direction, a second lever that moves in a second lever direction to initiate movement of the positioning unit in a second gear position direction opposite the first gear position direction, and wherein the first lever direction is the same as the second lever direction.

Nagano discloses a bicycle speed control apparatus comprising a takeup reel (2) rotatably mounted on a support shaft (11), wherein takeup reel (2) winds and releases a change speed wire (I) and includes a plurality of feed teeth (21), a plurality of first position retaining teeth (31) and a plurality of second position retaining teeth (61). A shift lever (4) includes a feed pawl (41) that contacts the plurality of feed teeth (21) when shift lever (4) rotates in the direction (X) shown in Fig. 4 to rotate takeup reel (2) in the wire winding direction.

A first position retaining pawl (32) and a second position retaining pawl (62) are pivotably mounted to selectively engage selected ones of the plurality of first position retaining teeth (31) and selected ones of the plurality of second position retaining teeth (61), respectively, in order to control the movement of takeup reel (2) in the wire releasing direction. Pawls (32) and (62) include abutments (34) and (64) that engage cams (71) and (72) formed on a release lever (7). When release lever (7) rotates in the direction (Y) shown in Fig. 4, cam (71) pushes abutment (34) radially inwardly, and cam (72) pushes abutment (64) radially outwardly. As a result, pawl (32) disengages from first position retaining teeth (31), and pawl (62) engages one of the plurality of second position retaining teeth (61) as shown in Fig. 5.

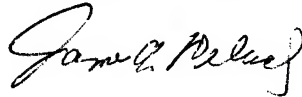
In any event, shift lever (4) rotates in direction (X) to move takeup reel (2) in the wire winding direction, and release lever (7) rotates in direction (Y) to initiate movement of takeup reel (2) in the wire releasing direction. Direction (X) is opposite direction (Y), so Nagano neither

discloses nor suggests movement of two levers in the same direction to operate the device as recited in claim 55.

As for independent claim 70, that claim has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 71.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

James A. Deland
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 69
Klamath River, California 96050
(530) 465-2430